



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Committee Bill No. 609**

LCO No. 4229

\* SB00609JUD\_\_041105\_\_ \*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING A PERMANENT INDEPENDENT MONITOR AT  
THE CONNECTICUT JUVENILE TRAINING SCHOOL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46a-13k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 (a) There is established an Office of the Child Advocate. The  
4 Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall appoint a  
5 person with knowledge of the child welfare system and the legal  
6 system to fill the Office of the Child Advocate. Such person shall be  
7 qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office  
8 as set forth in section 46a-13l. The appointment shall be made from a  
9 list of at least three persons prepared and submitted by the advisory  
10 committee established pursuant to section 46a-13q. Upon any vacancy  
11 in the position of Child Advocate, the advisory committee shall meet  
12 to consider and interview successor candidates and shall submit to the  
13 Governor a list of no less than five and no more than seven of the most  
14 outstanding candidates, not later than sixty days after the occurrence  
15 of said vacancy. Such list shall rank the candidates in the order of  
16 committee preference. Upon receipt of the list of candidates from the

17 advisory committee, the Governor shall designate a candidate for  
18 Child Advocate from among the choices [within] not later than eight  
19 weeks [of] after the date of receipt of such list. If at any time any of the  
20 candidates withdraw from consideration prior to confirmation by the  
21 General Assembly, the designation shall be made from the remaining  
22 candidates on the list submitted to the Governor. If a candidate has not  
23 been designated by the Governor within the eight-week time period,  
24 the candidate ranked first shall receive the designation and be referred  
25 to the General Assembly for confirmation. If the General Assembly is  
26 not in session, the designated candidate shall serve as acting Child  
27 Advocate and be entitled to the compensation, privileges and powers  
28 of the Child Advocate until the General Assembly meets to take action  
29 on said appointment. The person appointed Child Advocate shall  
30 serve for a term of four years and may be reappointed or shall  
31 continue to hold office until such person's successor is appointed and  
32 qualified. Upon any vacancy in the position of Child Advocate and  
33 until such time as a candidate has been confirmed by the General  
34 Assembly or, if the General Assembly is not in session, has been  
35 designated by the Governor, the Associate Child Advocate shall serve  
36 as the acting Child Advocate and be entitled to the compensation,  
37 privileges and powers of the Child Advocate.

38 (b) The Office of the Child Advocate shall be in the Freedom of  
39 Information Commission for administrative purposes only.

40 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the  
41 Child Advocate shall act independently of any state department in the  
42 performance of his or her duties.

43 (d) The Child Advocate may, within available funds, appoint such  
44 staff as may be deemed necessary provided, for the fiscal years ending  
45 June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997, such staff shall not exceed one and  
46 one-half full-time positions or the equivalent thereof. The duties of the  
47 staff may include the duties and powers of the Child Advocate if  
48 performed under the direction of the Child Advocate. The

49 independent monitor for the Connecticut Juvenile Training School  
 50 appointed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-27e, as amended  
 51 by this act, shall report to the Child Advocate.

52 (e) The General Assembly shall annually appropriate such sums as  
 53 necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the  
 54 payment of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the  
 55 Child Advocate in the performance of his or her duties. Any legal or  
 56 court fees obtained by the state in actions brought by the Child  
 57 Advocate shall be deposited in the General Fund.

58 (f) The Child Advocate shall annually submit to the Governor and  
 59 the General Assembly a detailed report analyzing the work of the  
 60 Office of the Child Advocate.

61 Sec. 2. Section 17a-27e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

63 (a) The Department of Children and Families in the maintenance,  
 64 pursuant to section 17a-3, of the new Connecticut Juvenile Training  
 65 School shall use the Manual of Standards for Juvenile Training Schools  
 66 published by the American Correctional Association in order to  
 67 improve safety for staff and residents of the Connecticut Juvenile  
 68 Training School and to allow the Connecticut Juvenile Training School  
 69 to be able to be accredited by the American Correctional Association.

70 (b) The Governor shall appoint an independent monitor for the  
 71 Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	46a-13k
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17a-27e

<b><i>KID</i></b>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HS
<b><i>HS</i></b>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	JUD
<b><i>JUD</i></b>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	